Rural Phone Plan

5222. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government have been drawn to the news item captioned "Rural Phone Plan hit due to delay in basic services projects" appearing in the 'Business Standard' dated April 24, 1997;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government to the observations made therein and facts of the matter;

(c) the details of action taken/proposed for effective and timely implementation of Rural Phone Plan; and

(d) the details of revised action plan worked out for Rural Phone, State-wise in general and for Maharashtra in particular, for 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In National Telecom Policy (NTP), 1994 the Government was having a plan to provide village Public Telephones (VPT) in all the villages alongwith the contribution from the Private Operators of Basic Services. As the participation of Private Operators was delayed, there has been a partial set-back in the provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs).

(c) The target of Department of Telecom and Private Operators has been taken into consideration and Annual Plan is being updated.

(d) The details are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

VPT Programme for 1997-98

S. NO.	CIR	Target 96-97	Achieve-ment for 96-97	Villages VPT as on 31.3.97	No. of the uncovered Villages as on 1.4.97	DOT Target 97-98	Pvt. operator target 97-98
1.	A&N	200	75	111	181	181	0
2.	AP	3000	2619	21272	8188	3000	0
3.	AS	2000	1665	7864	14360	4000	0
4.	BH	6000	3526	15569	63639	12000	0
5.	BJ	4000	1505	13923	4202	0	4202
6.	HY	1700	1204	6510	508	508	0
7.	HP	1000	1034	5075	11922	2500	0
8.	JK	600	730	2003	4450	1200	0
9.	KT	3000	4120	17481	9543	3000	0
10.	KL	0	0	1530	0	0	0
11.	MP	7350	7355	35367	36159	5500	5500
12.	MH	5000	4727	26450	13980	3000	0
13.	NE	1000	6400	3136	11061	2000	0
14.	OR	5000	3423	16173	30816	8819	0
15.	PB	4750	3506	12007	1245	1245	0
16.	RJ	6500	5051	17325	20564	5000	0
17.	TN	3200	2608	17038	3158	1000	0
18.	UPE	9000	5702	23394	52068	14000	0
19.	UPW	6300	4000	13907	23119	8000	0
20.	WB	5000	2860	10985	27352	8000	0
21.	DEL	0	0	191	0	0	0
22.	CAL	400	365	421	47	47	0
		75000	56719	267782	336592	83000	9702